about the same time seems to show that in the places examined two-thirds of the farmers in Kiangsu and slightly more than half in Hopei (Chihli) were attempting to make a living off one acre or less of land. It found the average of the holdings in Kiangsu to be about three and a quarter acres, and in Hopei about four acres. An earlier and probably less accurate estimate gave the average holding in Hopei as a fraction over twelve acres, and one, also earlier, gave that in Kiangsu as about three and a half acres. As is to be expected, in the North, with its smaller rainfall, the average farm is larger than in the Yangtze Valley or on the south coast, where the precipitation is heavier and the growing season longer, where more rice can be raised, and where more than one crop a year is usually possible.

While the above figures indicate that the great majority of farms are small, there are numerous exceptions. China has had and still has many large landed estates, some of them family possessions and others held as endowments of temples or of various philanthropic enterprises. Some are hundreds of acres in extent. These great domains, however, are not necessarily cultivated as units. Most of them appear to be rented out to tenants in plots but little if any larger than those worked by their owners. Many of the proprietors reside on their land and so form in places a kind of country gentry. Title to a considerable proportion of the rented land, however, has been and is held by absentees. This makes for a very different kind of rural society than where the owners live on their estates. When paid in cash, the rent yields the landlord about eight and a half or even eleven per cent, on his investment. When rent is a share of the crop, it takes about

half of what the tenant produces. The proportion of the agricultural land included in the larger holdings varies from section to section. The percentage of peasant proprietors appears to be highest in the older provinces of the North, and lowest in Fukien, Kwangtung, and the Yangtze Valley. Conditions have been modified in some sections by Communism, for this has promoted peasant proprietorship at the expense of the landlords.

The exact percentage of farmers the country over who own the land they till is not known. Certainly, however, it is fairly high. One set of figures seems to show that somewhat more than half the farmers cultivate their own land, that about a fourth leas?